

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please ADD the following as the first paragraph of the specification.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/445,160, which was filed on March 10, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of claims.

1. (original) A ribosome-inactivating protein comprising a single chain protein, the protein being characterised by having a molecular weight of about 26,000 daltons by polyacryl-amide gel electrophoresis under reducing and non-reducing conditions, a pI of about 9.0, and further comprising an amino-terminal amino acid residue sequence having at least 50% homology with the following amino acid sequence:

Y N T V S F N L G E A Y E Y P T F I Q D L R N E L A K G T P (SEQ ID No. 1),

or a biologically active fragment or equivalent of said protein having ribosome inactivating properties and/or having an amino acid sequence homology of at least 50% with said protein and/or comprising at least 5 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence of said protein.

2. (original) The protein of claim 1, said protein further being characterised by having an IC_{50} of about 0.04×10^{-11} M in a rabbit reticulocyte lysate system.

3. (currently amended) The protein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, said sequence homology being at least 65% especially at least 75%, and/or said part comprising at least 8, especially at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

4. (currently amended) The protein of ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 50%, especially at least 65% homology with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 9, and/or said fragment comprises at least 8, especially at least 10 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 9.

5. (currently amended) The protein of ~~any of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein said protein can be isolated from a *Bougainvillea* species, especially *B. spectabilis* Willd.

6. (currently amended) A conjugate comprising the ribosome-inactivating protein of ~~any of claims 1-5 or fragment thereof~~ claim 1, linked to a ligand to form a toxin-ligand conjugate.

7. (original) The conjugate of claim 6, wherein said ligand comprises an immunoglobulin, hormone, growth factor, peptide or non-peptide ligand.

8. (original) The conjugate of claim 7, wherein said immunoglobulin is a monoclonal antibody or single-chain monoclonal antibody, or a fragment thereof such as Fab, F(ab')₂, Fv, or other fragment which retains the antigen binding function of the parent antibody.

9. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ribosome-inactivating protein of ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 or the conjugate of ~~any one of claims 6-8~~ claim 6, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

10. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant is human serum albumin,

albumin, an ion exchanger, alumina, lecithin, a buffer substance, salt or electrolyte.

11. (currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, or a conjugate according to ~~any one of claims 6-8~~ claim 6, or part thereof comprising a sequence of at least 15, especially at least 24 nucleotides.

12. (currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequence according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~.

13. (original) The recombinant vector of claim 12, further comprising transcriptional and translational control sequences operably linked to the oligonucleotide sequence encoding the ribosome-inactivating protein.

14. (currently amended) A host cell transfected with a recombinant vector of claim 12 ~~or 13~~.

15. (original) A method for the recombinant expression of bouganin comprising transfecting a host cell with an expression vector comprising an oligonucleotide sequence encoding the bouganin amino acid sequence or an active fragment thereof, growing the transfected host cells, inducing the transfected host cells to express recombinant bouganin and isolating the expressed recombinant bouganin.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said host cell is a bacterium, a plant cell, or a yeast.

17. (original) A method for producing a recombinant bouganin-ligand fusion protein comprising transfecting a host cell with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the bouganin amino acid sequence operably linked with a nucleotide sequence which encodes a ligand, growing the transfected host cells, inducing the transfected host cells to express the recombinant bouganin-ligand fusion protein, and isolating the expressed recombinant bouganin.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said host cell is a bacterium, a plant cell, or a yeast.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~or 18~~ wherein the ligand is a large molecular weight protein, a small molecular weight protein, a polypeptide, or a peptide-ligand.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the ligand is an immunoreactive ligand.

21-26. (canceled)